Surgeons face ethical dilemmas every day and improper management can decrease quality of care. Deficiencies have been noted in surgical ethics education which currently relies on chance encounters and the hidden curriculum. We propose ethics be incorporated in a substantive way to prepare learners to recognize and respond virtuously to complex challenges. Ethics Morbidity and Mortality Rounds (M&Ms) were introduced into regularly scheduled M&Ms at an academic teaching centre, wherein ethics issues are the complications discussed. This seminar will explore Ethics M&Ms and a qualitative study which evaluates their impact.

Our study demonstrates that Ethics M&Ms can broaden the approach to ethical reasoning by fostering the ability to identify ethical tensions, by increasing available resources for dealing with these tensions, and by changing surgical culture to promote explicit, open discussion of ethically complex events.